



JULY, 1983

The I/O Connector

The Newsletter of the San Diego Atari Computer Enthusiasts

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Well... This has been quite a month. Three days before the CES (Consumers Electronic Show) I was called by Mark Cator of ATARI and asked if I would like to go to Chicago for the show and an ATARI presentation at their expense. It didn't take me long to say yes. How about that for support. To make a long story short, myself and about nine other user group presidents arrived in Chicago June 6 and were ushered to a party for ATARI dealers and distributors where we were told about the great and wondrous things that ATARI had in store for us. The new computer products are great as well as some of the software coming up. Pole Position is awesome. We saw some of their ads and they were good at comparing our computer to the competition. There is a great one coming out on Centipede. They are completely restructuring their computer and game division. Both the game and computers are going to be under one head. I was very impressed with the new line of computers. After the party all the presidents got together and had a bull session. The consensus was that all of were impressed and we all want a 1450XLD when it comes out. Contrary to the January CES show none of us were disappointed. We also were impressed by the attention given us by the user group support team.

The show itself was very interesting. ATARI showed a track-ball, remote control joystick, a new letter quality printer, touch tablet and light pen besides all the new computers which you read about last month. We will have the inventor of the ATARI light pen at our next meeting to demonstrate it. Do not miss it. It is great! THE NEW PRODUCT LINE OF ATARI'S IS SENSATIONAL!! The computers are beautiful to look at and very versatile. They all had a EXPANSION PORT! How long have we been waiting for it? At the show I was given a print out from the new letter quality printer. It looked like it came from a typewriter. It is noisy and slow but at \$349.95 who cares. In connection with Add-On Software Inc. ATARI is introducing a CP/M module. This unit which will sell for under \$500 includes a Z-80 processor, 64K Ram and a 80 column display. It will access the ATARI through the serial port which allows all 400/800 owners to add CP/M.

The ATARILAB School Science Series will consist of an interface unit which is plugged into the joystick port and enables you to connect sensors, lights and other scientific devices to the ATARI. It will initially be offered as part of a starter set including a temperature sensor probe and a temperature ROM cartridge containing programs needed to make observations and perform experiments using the probe.

Lots of new games were shown for the ATARI. ATARI DONKEY KONG is just like the arcade version. ATARI has finally added some programming talent. There were lots of third party software available for the ATARI also. We will be demonstrating some of them. Software Arts showed their Pinball Construction Set. It allows you to build a pinball machine and program it to do almost anything you want. It is similar to the Lisa Computer by IBM in that you move a hand around to point to the objects you want to move and to where you want to move them. Synapse announced SYN-APPS

which is a group of programs which interact with each other. There is a word processor which is being written by our own Ron Miller, a spreadsheet program, a replacement for Filemanger and a graphics and forecasting program. They will all interact with each other. Very impressive. I also felt that Synapse had some of the best quality games at the show.

After the show on Monday I went to the press conference where ATARI introduced their new spokesperson, Allan Alda. He was very interested in learning all there is to know about home computing. I will continue my report of the CES show next month. I will not be at the next meeting but it will be a good one. Give Tony your support. We still need a program chairman.

EDITOR'S OUTPUT

Ahhhhh . . . Summertime!

I hope you're enjoying your summer; I'm enjoying mine! Last weekend I went rock climbing for the first time up in the San Jacinto Mountains. Barely expected to survive. Yesterday, the Fourth, I sat around on the beach at Crown Point drinking beer, throwing a frisbee and generally being a nuisance. Next weekend I'm going rafting down the Kern river. The weekend after that I'm probably going to wash my car. Nonstop thrills.

Sure is dry these days. Judging from member input to the newsletter, we've all gone on vacation.

I'm still having fun at the keyboard. I bought Atari's TIMWISE program. It's a bit of organizational overkill for only one person, but it would work well in a small office setting.

Enjoy yourself, but remember, skin cancer will affect one out of three people in their lifetime. Use an approved sunscreen.

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LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

Well, I see it's time for some news from your friendly (tired, overworked) club librarian. Between working an eight hour day, running my small business, doing jury duty, and updating the libraries, it's a wonder that I am able to get as much done as I do. But at any rate, here goes . . .

For those of you still confused over the large number of joysticks available for the Atari computer, cast your eyes on this month's copy of Softside. There are about ten different types shown and described. Every stick (I believe) is there, from our old friend that came with the computer (at least they did when I bought mine) to some new ones that allow you to rapid-fire the enemies of the universe into video oblivion. Take a look at it.

The BBS has received some more fine tuning from the hands of Don Perkins, hopefully clearing up some of the little problems which have been occurring.

SAN DIEGO ATARI COMPUTER ENTHUSIASTS

is an independent, nonprofit organization and user's group with no connection to ATARI Corporation, a Warner Communication Company. Membership fees are currently \$10.00 annually from January 1983 to January 1984. Membership includes free access to the computer program library, subscription to "The I/O Connector", and classes, when held. Permission to reprint articles in any noncommercial publication is permitted, without written authorization, as long as proper credit is given.

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SUBMISSIONS TO THE NEWSLETTER

are rare, because generally nobody gets up off their duff to sit down at the keyboard and produce ideas, opinions, reviews or anything of even the slightest interest to the group. When received, they cause the editor to turn inside out with happiness. Deadline is the 28th of the month. Thanks.

Paul Caesar's BEST BUYS

Summer seems to be melting away the prices of home computers. The Timex is selling for \$35, the VIC 20 for \$77 and the Atari 400 is closing out now at \$99 (including rebate) and that price may decrease. The Atari 800 is advertised at \$399 with a \$100 rebate for a net price of \$299. It may be that these prices will go down as the new line of Atari computers come on line. The 600 is scheduled to hit the stores this fall and will probably retail for about \$159. The 800XL, 1400XL, and 1450XLD will come later. It should be an interesting year for Atari fans.

To keep you up to date on where you can buy Atari products, K-Mart, Gemco, Target, Broadway, Penneys, May Co., Fedco, and Federated all have Atari hardware and software. Of course as always, if you need information to help you use your computer to its best advantage, you should shop at Dimensional Software, Computer Control Central, Disneys, or some other "computer store". I have found the level of knowledge about computers at discount and department stores is deplorable. I used to believe that you got what you paid for, but at some of the large department stores, which charge full list price, you get absolutely no help or knowledge for the money you spend. My suggestion is that you figure out about how much you already know about computers, so you can decide how much support you need from your local computer retailer.

You have access to some very experienced Atari users here in the club (if you can get one to stand still for 2 minutes). If you get desperate for an answer, you might even be able to get through on Atari's 800 phone number. Help is there for those who look hard enough.

That's all I have for this month. Again, none of the stores listed are endorsed by SDACE and my apologies to all the fine computer stores that weren't mentioned this month. If I don't know about you, the only way you'll ever get a mention is if you drop me a line (I'm very democratic). Happy July and happy computing.

Paul Caesar, 377 Fashion Valley, San Diego, CA 92108

SPECIAL NOTICE

TO MEMBERS OF THE S.D.A.C.E.

Do any of you use your computer to control portions of your home? Would you be willing to talk with me about your applications?

I'm doing an article for a new computer magazine about the ways in which a computer can be harnessed to help make domestic life easier. I am interested in unusual applications, but also in the basic functions, too - and the simpler the installation and operation the better.

If some of you have had experience with home applications and would be willing to be interviewed, please write to me at the address below. Send your name, phone number, and a brief mention of what you've taught your computer to do around the house. I'll gladly follow up with a phone call at your convenience.
Write to:

Lester Brooks
The Writing Team
43 Marshall Ridge Rd.
New Canaan, CT 06840
203/966-0610

SOFTWARE REVIEW



KINDER COMP

Product of Spinnaker Software
Reviewed by Keith Steensma
Little Rock Atari Addicts
Bldg. 7, Apt. 139 (Home Sweet Home)
3900 McCain Park
N. Little Rock, AR 72116

For some time now, I have been looking around for an educational program that would teach and entertain my 4 and 6 year old children. But at that age, the program must have just the right balance of graphics, color, and sound to hold their attention long enough for them to learn about the computer. Kinder Comp is a first in my book. The program's author must have children of his own. There are 6 items that can be chosen from the main menu of the program.

The first 3 (DRAW, SCRIBBLE, and NAMES) are just what my younger child needs to learn about joystick and keyboard eye-to-hand coordination.

DRAW is just what the name implies. By pressing the "1" or "2" key and using the joystick, drawings in 2 different line thicknesses can be created. Areas can then be filled in by locating the cursor within the area and pressing the "F" key. The "B" and "W" keys offer a choice between drawing on a white or black background and the joystick button allows selection of the color to draw with.

SCRIBBLE gives the child an interesting way of learning where the keys are located on the keyboard. Just a simple "repeat the character" pressed for a complete screen line. NAMES allows the child to use those keyboard letters for something meaningful. Up to a 15 letter message is whipped, flipped, tossed, and spread all over the screen in a variety of sizes, spots, and colors. Younger and older children and perhaps an adult or two can be challenged and entertained by SEQUENCE, LETTERS and MATCH.

The LETTERS selection challenges the child to press the upper case letter corresponding to the lower case letter that appears on the screen. Five correct answers are rewarded with a sound and color show. SEQUENCE provides a more difficult test of the child's abilities by requiring the entry of the next number in a straight 5 number sequence. A very nicely done test of the child's thought process. By far, the MATCH selection is the best. A pattern is outlined in red and the child must choose an identical pattern marked by a "1", "2", or a "3". Even I have to look twice on some to be sure I am correct. Correct answers are rewarded by a smiling face, while incorrect answers get a frowning face. The patterns are just random enough to prevent any memorizing of sequence.

The author's abilities to know what interests a child is outstanding. The system of reward makes the user's learning process enjoyable and entertaining. I highly recommend this program for all children. It's priced at less than \$30.00

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Call for Papers

CADRE - Computers in Art and Design, Research and Education - a San Jose State University based group will sponsor a major conference on the impact and potential of computer uses in January of 1984.

Examples of topics which could be addressed through theory, demonstration or workshop presentations include:

- Effect on cultural, social and intellectual change
- Critical evaluation of the computer as a medium
- Artificial intelligence as it pertains to methods of art and design
- Artificial intelligence as it assists in the control of computer processes
- Investigative solutions possible only through the computer's unique capabilities
- The new aesthetic

The proceedings of the Conference will be published in both traditional and machine readable formats. Compensation for selected papers and demonstrations will be an honorarium of \$500, conference travel, registration and a share in the profits of any post-conference publication. Please send all abstracts to:

CADRE '84 Conference
C/O Professor Marcia Chamberlain
Art Department
San Jose State University
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San Jose, CA 95192

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MAILING LIST (D)	ATARI	MAIL LIST	24.95
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BUSIPAK-1 (D)	ELCOMP	BUSINESS PROGRAM PACKAGE	98.00
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FILE IT+ (D)	SWIFTY SOFTWARE, INC.	SMALL SCALE DATABASE	49.95
FILE MANAGER+ (D)	SYNAPSE SOFTWARE	DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM	99.95
P.M.P. 2000 (D)	T & F SOFTWARE CO.	PROPERTY MANAGEMENT	219.95
FILE FAX (D)	TMO SOFTWARE, INC.	DATABASE MANAGER	129.00
E-Z TAX (D)	TAX HELP INC.	INCOME TAX PREPARER	69.95
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MONEY MANAGER (D)	THE PROGRAMMERS WORKSHOP	FINANCIAL SCRATCHPAD	29.00
STAT PLUS (D)	THE PROGRAMMERS WORKSHOP	STATISTICAL PROGRAM	49.00
VISICALC (D)	VISICORP	SPREAD SHEET	250.00

From the Micro of Monmouth Newsletter.

SOFTWARE REVIEW

BUG OFF!

By Sparky Starks

Distributed by Adventure International

Disk or Cassette

(Disk in 32K)

Retail at \$29.95, discounted to \$21.00

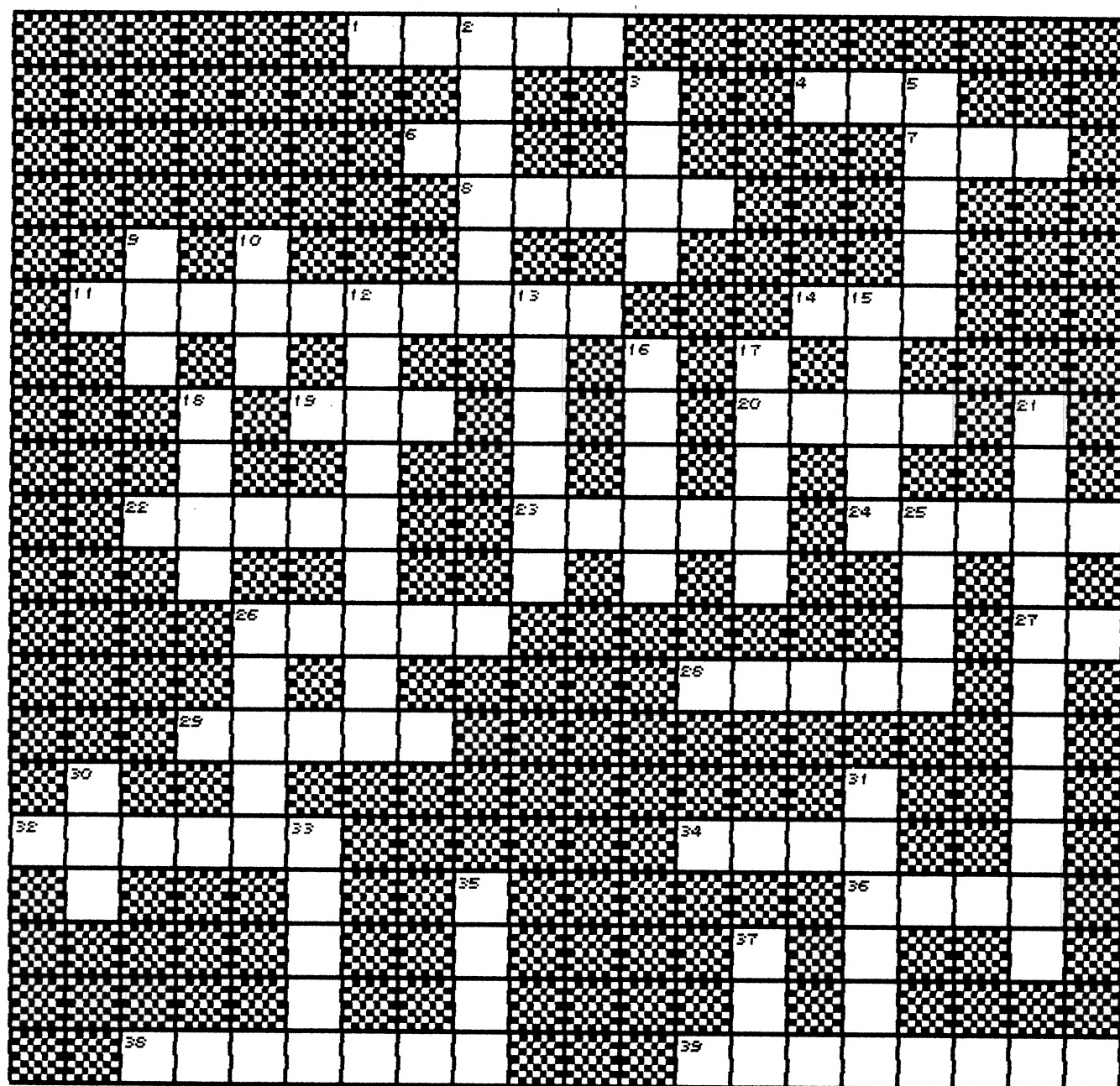
Reviewed by Buck Bragunier and sons.

BUG OFF! by Sparky Stevens is a fast action machine language game guaranteed to give your trigger finger a real workout. Your garden is being overrun by seven different types of pesky bugs, and you, ignoring the best interests of the EPA, are determined to exterminate them all. Armed only with a manual DDT sprayer, you are limited to patrolling the perimeter of your garden, spraying away. Your range is limited to one-half the width of the garden, so you must be constantly on the move to attack the buildup of bugs. The butterflies, bees, and caterpillars are basically harmless, but a kill counts. Months and centipedes spin cocoons which have the ability to clog your sprayer and cost you DDT. Also, they can drop cocoons in the corners of the garden, which costs bonus points. Wasps and mad spiders have an appetite for DDT, which costs you ammunition.

The game is divided into time periods: the seven days of the week, and each day is further divided into four "meal periods". Each night, play stops, the butterflies flutter to see whether you have kept the corners of the garden free of cocoons and award bonus points. Also, the Army airdrops you more DDT for the next day's work. Appropriate music is played throughout the game.

Options for skill levels are available, and explained in the "Bug Almanac", as are the different types of bugs. Once play starts, it really does not matter. The graphics are not well enough defined to show any real difference, and the action is fast enough so you really don't have to worry about it anyway.

The independent testing group, composed of my two sons (ages 9 and 13) and their innumerable friends sum it up as follows: "Pretty good, but it gets boring after a while. It's not the best game in the world." For my money, Fort Apocalypse is a better buy.



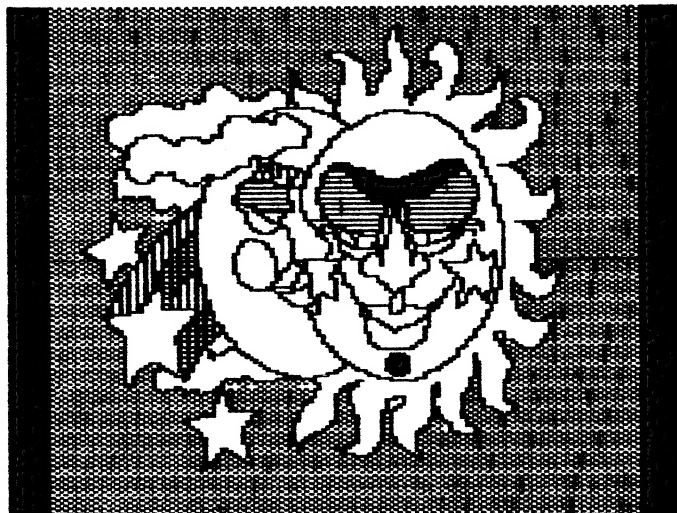
- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. OPERATION NORMALLY DONE ON NEW PROGRAM | 2. A HOLDING PEN FOR BYTES |
| 4. COMMAND TO FETCH SOMETHING | 3. NAME OF MAGAZINE |
| 6. --X=40 | 5. NIXON HAD THESE..... |
| 7. BASIC LOGIC GATE | 9. WHAT COMMAND GIVES YOU CHOICES |
| 8. PROGRAMING LANGUAGE | 10. THE IC THAT DOES MOST OF THE WORK IN YOUR COMPUTER |
| 11. LARGE BBS | 12. WHERE ATARIS USE'D TO COME FROM |
| 14. WHAT IS ON 9:00 TO 3:30 | 13. FIRST AVAILABLE VOICE FOR ATARI |
| 19. OPPOSITE OF START | 15. COMPUTER LANGUAGE |
| 20. TYPE OF MEDIA | 16. OUR PREZ.... |
| 22. BOOT-UP SIGNAL | 17. OUR GROUP.... |
| 23. POPULAR COMPUTER MAGAZINE | 18. HOW WE KEEP THE CLUB |
| 24. ERASE EVERYTHING | 21. NEW WORD PROSSESSOR |
| 26. OPPOSITE OF FANCY | 25. NOT LOAD BUT----- |
| 27. --X=50 | 26. ITEM NEEDED FOR BBS |
| 28. OPPPOSITE OF END | 30. WHERE MEMORY RESIDES |
| 29. HOW YOU GET THE BBS | 31. DRIVE MANAFACTURER |
| 32. WHAT MOST OF US ARE | 33. WHAT YOU NEED TO DO IF THE COMPUTER LOCKS UP |
| 34. WHAT BANKS WANT YOU TO DO | 35. WHAT EL CAJON ISN'T |
| 36. COMPETION | 37. NOT BEER BUT ----- |
| 38. KEY NEEDED TO GET GRAPHICS | |
| 39. BUS,TRAIN,PLANE----- | |

RUN THIS

Taken from: ABACUS:
Taken from: PAGE 6,
Stafford, U.K.

```
5 REM ## CYLINDERS ##
6 REM ## by Phil Griffin ##
10 GRAPHICS 9:SETCOLOR 4,1,0:Y=8
15 X=0:Y1=180
20 A=1:B=15:C=1:GOSUB 100
25 A=15:B=1:C=-1:GOSUB 100:A=10
30 FOR Y=18 TO 58 STEP 10
35 Y1=Y1-10:GOSUB 100:NEXT Y
40 FOR K=1 TO 3:FOR Z=0 TO 3
45 SETCOLOR 4,Z,0
50 FOR T=1 TO 1000:NEXT T
55 NEXT Z:NEXT K:GOTO 10
100 FOR K=A TO B STEP C
110 K1=K:IF K>12 THEN K1=12
120 COLOR 15-K:PLOT X,Y-2-K1/3
130 DRAWTO X,Y+K1/3:COLOR K
140 PLOT X,Y+1+K1/3
150 DRAWTO X,Y1+K1/3:X=X+1
160 NEXT K:RETURN
```

GRAPHICS



Screen Dump Graphics Courtesy of
Fritz Porter, S.D.A.C.E.

Computer Control Center
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(619) 273-5005

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CALENDAR

What: San Diego Atari Computer Enthusiasts
Monthly Meeting

When: 6:30 p.m.
3rd Monday of each month

- July 18, August 15

Where: North Park Recreational Center
4044 Idaho Street
Social Room

Contact: Dick Hiatt, 463-8460 evenings.

What: North County A.C.E.

When: 6:00 p.m.
3rd Tuesday of each month

- July 19, August 16

Where: 8081 Mira Mesa Blvd.
(Church across street and west of Mira Mesa
Cinemas.)

Contact: Ron Miller, 748-7195

What: North-West County A.C.E.
Monthly Meeting

When: 9:00 a.m.
2nd Saturday of each month

- July 9, August 13

Where: Infotainment Computers

Contact: Rick Reichert, 727-6566

What: Deadline for I/O Connector Newsletter

When: 28th of each month

Where: c/o David Schultz
4037 Honeycutt Street San Diego, CA 92109

RUN THIS

The following is a short program from Larry Stagen of the Atari Bay Area Computer Users Society (ABACUS) that will delete several continuous lines of a program without the need for the programmer to type in each line number. Type in the program and LIST it to either your recorder or disk. When wanting to use it, ENTER it into your computer while the present program is in memory. To use the delete program, type GOTO 32000. When saving your present program, first delete the lines of the deleting program.

```
32000 GRAPHICS 0
32001 TRAP 32001: POKE 84,11:"ENTER FIRST LINE TO
DELETE";:INPUT F:"ENTER LAST LINE TO DELETE";:INPUT L
32002 IF INT(F)<>ABS(F) OR F>32000 OR INT(L)<>ABS(L) OR
L>32000 OR L<F THEN ? CHR$(253): GOTO 32001
32003 GRAPHICS 0:?:?: F: F=F+1
32004 ? "CONT": POSITION 0,0: POKE 842,13: STOP
32005 POKE 842,12: IF F<=L THEN 32003
32006 GRAPHICS 0: ?"THE DELETING IS DONE": END
```

BBS

BBS'S (UPDATED 04/13/83)

BBS NAME	TYPE	LOCATION	AREA	NUMBER
JACG (9PM-9AM)	TARIBOARD	MADISON, NJ	201	377-4084
WASHINGTON	ARMUDIC	WASHINGTON, DC	202	276-8342
NEW YORK	ARMUDIC	NEW YORK, NY	212	598-0719
LA ACE	AMIS	LOS ANGELES	213	366-2125
LA	AMIS	LOS ANGELES	213	638-3204
TEJAS	CP/M	HAWKINS, TX	214	769-3036
ALLENTOWN	CP/M	ALLENTOWN, PA	215	398-3937
PHILY	CP/M	PHILADELPHIA, PA	215	836-5116
OHIO	ARMUDIC	OHIO	216	582-2797
NASA	GAS-NET	MARYLAND	301	344-9156
COMPUTER AGE	ARMUDIC	BALTIMORE, MD	301	587-2132
DENVER	TARIBOARD	DENVER, CO	303	221-1779
DENVER	AMIS	DENVER, CO	303	758-6233
APOGEE	AMIS	MIAMI, FLA	305	238-1231
SCAT	AMIS?	ROSELLE, IL	312	620-6441
CHICAGO	AMIS	CHICAGO, IL	312	789-3610
AMES	MISC	CHICAGO, IL	312	789-0499
MACE	AMIS	MICHIGAN	313	274-3940
MACE	AMIS	MICHIGAN	313	589-3940
MICHIGAN	CP/M	ROYAL OAK, MI	313	759-6569
G.R.A.S.S.	AMIS	STERLING HEIGHTS, MI	313	978-8087
GEORGIA	ATABBS	GEORGIA	404	252-9438
GEORGIA	ATABBS	GEORGIA	404	434-1168
OKLAHOMA	ARMUDIC	OKLAHOMA	405	722-5056
OKLAHOMA	CP/M	OKC	405	848-9329
COMPUTER EMPRM	NETWORKS	SAN JOSE	408	227-0227
SAN JOSE	BULLETT-80	SAN JOSE, CA	408	241-0769
	AMIS	SAN JOSE	408	244-6229
CUPERTINO	BULLETT-80	CUPERTINO, CA	408	253-8919
GRAFEX	AMIS	CUPERTINO	408	253-5216
RBBS	RBBS	MOUNTAIN VIEW	408	263-2588
ITSY BITSY	AMIS	SAN JOSE	408	298-6930
CONFERENCE TREE	CON TREE	SUNNYVALE	408	475-7101
CIO-BAAUG	AMIS	SAN JOSE	408	578-2390
STUART	STUART	SUNNYVALE	408	749-1872
SOFTWARE CITY	AMIS	SAN JOSE	408	866-4224
ATARI USERS GF	AMIS	SUNNYVALE	408	942-6990
ATARI	AMIS	SAN JOSE	408	942-6975
SAN JOSE	CONN-80	SAN JOSE	408	997-2786
PA	AMIS	MONROEVILLE, PA	412	372-0616
PACE	ARMUDIC	PITTSBURGH, PA	412	655-2652
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BOSTON	CP/M	BOSTON, MA	617	266-7789
INTL MODEM EXCH	TIMECOR	MASS	617	738-5051
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Contact Mark Stillwater, 3591 Keystone Rd., Oceanside, CA 92054. (619) 724-0489

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ETC.

Atari Announces New 6502 Instruction Set.

At the recent C.E.S. in Chicago, Atari, Inc. unveiled the new XL series of computers. Atari representative Alan Loofuoy, Eastern Region Vice President of New Product Development, mentioned that the new machines will contain an expanded instruction set that will greatly expand the power of the 6502 microprocessor. Acknowledging that the impetus for the new opcodes had come from "Heavy Users," Loofuoy said that these new codes will satisfy their needs. Listed here are a few of the new codes announced in Chicago.

BNR - Branch for No Reason
DFD - Deviate from Documentation
DPW - Don't Let Player Win
EDR - Emit Deadly Radiation
FLR - Flash Lights at Random
GMD - Generate Meaningless Data
ICR - Incur Costly Repair
JIL - Jump to Inaccessible Location
LLI - Lose Last Instruction
POP - Punch out programmer
RIS - Remain in Subroutine
VDS - Vary disk speed
TEC - Take Extra Time for Calculation

courtesy of Atari Computer Club of Oklahoma City.

The I/O Connector

5353 BALTIMORE DR., #39
LA MESA, CA 92041

Glenn

OUR NEXT MEETING,

JULY 18, 1983
6:30 P.M.

North Park Recreation Center
4044 Idaho Street
Social Room

TOPICS TO BE PRESENTED:

Use of the Light Pen

Instructional Video

TO:

STEVE LAWRENCE
8924 DUNCAN RD.
SAN DIEGO, CA
92126

